

Family and Children's Services

Suffolk County Department of
Social Services

FCSA

- Child Protective Services Investigations (CPS)
- Child Protective and Preventive Services (CPPS)
- Child Placement Bureau (CPB)
- Adult Protective Services (APS)

CPS Investigations

- **1-800-342-3720 General Public Hotline**
- **1-800-635-1522 Mandated Reporter Hotline**

The NYS State Central Register for Child Abuse
& Maltreatment aka "SCR"
24 / 7 Hotline based in Albany takes reports
for all of New York State

Will report be accepted?

- The determining factor for the SCR is whether the parent or caretaker's actions **either caused harm to a child, or caused a substantial risk of harm**
- EXAMPLE: A call is made alleging that a parent drank to the point of intoxication. This is not necessarily accepted because there may be no apparent effect to the child. If the parent drank to the point of intoxication, and then drove with the child in the car, then the RISK to the child would require a report to be accepted.

Abuse Definition

- An **abused** child is a child under the age of 18 whose parent or other person legally responsible for his/her care inflicts, or allows to be inflicted, serious physical injury, or substantial risk of death, serious or protracted disfigurement, or protracted impairment of physical or emotional health. This definition also includes children who have been sexually abused.

Neglect definition

- A **maltreated** child is a child under the age of 18 harmed, or at risk of harm, by a parent or other person legally responsible who fails to exercise a minimum degree of care in:
- 1) supplying the child with food, clothing, shelter, education, or medical care; or,
- 2) in providing the child with proper supervision or guardianship by unreasonably inflicting or allowing to be inflicted harm or a substantial risk thereof, including the use of excessive corporal punishment, or by misusing drugs or alcohol to the extent that he or she loses control of his actions, or by abandoning the child.

Abuse Vs. Neglect

ABUSE:

- An **abused** child is a child under the age of 18 whose parent or other person legally responsible for his/her care inflicts upon the child serious physical injury, creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury, or commits a sex offense against the child.

NEGLECT :

- A **maltreated** child is a child under the age of 18 harmed, or at risk of harm, by a parent or other person legally responsible who fails to exercise a minimum degree of care.

DSS 2221-a

Available online at OCFS website:

- **Via Internet:**
<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/forms/cps>
- **Via Intranet:**
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/admin/forms/SCR>

Fill out form first, before making call to the hotline

Once report is accepted:

- Report is transmitted to Suffolk County, logged in, and assigned to the Team that covers that geographic area.
- Specialized Abuse Teams (divided up by North & South) investigate reports of abuse, sex abuse, burns and fractures.
- NY State requires that an investigation be initiated within 24 hours by the LDSS. In Suffolk our practice is to see and interview the child(ren) as quickly as possible after the report is received

Once report is accepted (continued):

- The ongoing investigation will include interviews with all children named on the report, all subjects named on the report and all other adults named on the report.
- The Caseworker will interview the person who made the report, secure releases of information, and conduct criminal background checks on all adults listed on the report
- The Caseworker has 60 days to continue gathering information. At the 60-day point, a determination must be made. This is done in consultation with the Supervisor.

Three possible outcomes:

- 1. UNFOUNDED 65% to 70% of reports
Investigation did not reveal some credible evidence to substantiate the allegations.
- 2. INDICATED AND CLOSED The investigation did reveal some credible evidence to substantiate the allegations, however there are no current safety issues or apparent ongoing risk to the child. This category includes isolated incidents, and cases where there is insufficient evidence to take the case to court.
- 3. INDICATED AND OPEN The investigation did reveal some credible evidence to substantiate the allegations, and the child would NOT be safe if the case is closed. There is sufficient evidence to petition the case to court or request the acceptance of voluntary services.

Mandated Reporters

- Although anyone can call in a report to the SCR, certain professionals are mandated to report their concerns
- Mandated reporters are required to report any suspected abuse or maltreatment that they encounter in their professional capacity.
- When deciding whether or not to call in a report, keep in mind that the standard to go by is **REASONABLE CAUSE TO SUSPECT**. It is not up to you to investigate your suspicions, but only to report them.

Mandated Reporters (cont.)

- Failure to report is a Class A Misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$1500 fine and up to a year in jail.
- If you know there is an open report, you can call the assigned Caseworker with your concerns. You may be directed to call in a new report if need be.
- 2221-A Form needs to be submitted to Suffolk County CPS, PO Box 18100, Hauppauge, NY 11788.
